

LIVE TESTIMONY
To the Public Health Committee
Regarding Raised Bill 6592:
An Act Concerning Certification of Classical Homeopaths
March 20, 2013

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Abby Beale. I am here today representing Homeopathy for Connecticut, a group of natural health conscious individuals committed to improving access to highly qualified homeopaths in Connecticut. We are asking for statutory recognition that will allow nationally certified classical homeopaths the ability to practice in Connecticut.

By the time my first child was nine months old, he was getting ear infections. Six months and many prescriptions for antibiotics later, we were told he needed tubes. As his mother, I wanted to research all my options and came upon this practice called homeopathy. I found a homeopath and took my son who was then 14 months. He was given one homeopathic remedy and never had another ear infection. I was amazed! How could that be? I really wondered. As time went on, I continued homeopathic treatment for my son whenever he needed it and then started it for myself. By 2001, I decide to start studying homeopathy by joining a weekend school and by voracious reading.

If the laws in CT had allowed, as they do in most other states, I would have opened a practice years ago. But because a law from 1893 only allows

medical doctors to practice homeopathy in CT, I couldn't. So I continued my studies and more than 10 years later, I am close to becoming a CCH, a nationally recognized certification for classical homeopaths. It is like the CPA designation for accountants or the CFP for financial planners. If you go to a CCH, you know you are going to a highly qualified professional.

So what does a homeopath do? A homeopath conducts an initial extensive interview, lasting up to 2 hours, asking many questions to fully understand the mental, emotional and physical symptoms the person presents with. Then the homeopath takes those pieces and puts them together like a puzzle to match it to a homeopathic remedy. So all a homeopath does is recommend homeopathic remedies, which, by the way, are sold over-the-counter at health food stores. Unlike a medical doctor, a homeopath **does NOT** diagnose disease, administer or dispense legend drugs or controlled substances, engage in surgery or any in practices that invade the human body.

To become a CCH, I have completed 470 more classroom hours than is required of a medical doctor in CT and 356 more than a naturopath. I have 300 more clinical hours than a medical doctor and 318 more than a naturopath. (I am attaching a comparison document for your review) CCH's major in homeopathy. I firmly believe CCH's are well-qualified to practice.

Less than a year ago, I opened a homeopathic consulting office in Massachusetts because I can't practice here. I can practice in MA, NY, and RI, but not in my own state.

Homeopathy is safe, inexpensive and used by over 200 million people worldwide. It would be great for the citizens of CT to have more access to this natural healing option.

We urge you to support the Raised Bill #6592 with the language change we have submitted. I am attaching a copy of this revision with my testimony.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify today and would be happy to answer any questions you might have at this time, or you may contact me at Abbylearn@gmail.com or 203-530-3367 with any questions.

Attachments

- Proposed substitute language for Bill #6592
- Training Requirements for Certified Classical Homeopaths
- Comparison of Homeopathic Train Requirements (CCH, MD and ND)

HOMEOPATHY for CONNECTICUT

National Certification Requirements

To become certified as a Certified Classical Homeopath (CCH), the Council for Homeopathic Certification (CHC) requires the following:

1. Exam Prerequisites:

- U.S. resident
- Homeopathic education:
Minimum of 500 hours of homeopathic training from either a single school or a variety of different programs.
- Medical education:
Completion of an Anatomy and Physiology course (3-5 credits or a minimum of 33 hours of lecture time) and a Pathology and Disease course (40 classroom hours). Courses must be recognized by the CHC.
- Clinical education:
Minimum of 250 documented hours of clinical observation/ analysis including 10 formally supervised cases.

2. Proctored written exam: Theoretical and Practical

3. Submission of 5 cases taken without supervision and followed for a minimum of 6 months.

4. Oral interview

5. Practitioners certified by the CHC must complete a minimum of 20 continuing education units (CEU's) each calendar year.

For more, please visit www.homeopathicdirectory.com.

Comparison of Homeopathic Educational Requirements

	Nationally Certified Homeopaths (CCH)	CT Homeopathic Medical Doctors (MD)	Naturopathic Physicians (ND)*
Number of Required Classroom Hours	500	30	144
Number of Required Clinical Hours	390	90	72 if in homeopathic specialty clinic; plus other exposure in naturopathic clinic ad hoc
Number of Required Supervised Cases	10	none	none
Number of Independent Cases	5	none	none
Required Medical Education	Medical Terminology, Anatomy and Physiology, Pathology	Medical Doctor; Requirements of Section 20-10 of the General Statutes	Doctor of Naturopathy; Requirements of Section 20-34 to 42 of the General Statutes
Exam contents	Section I: Philosophy Section II: Human Health Sciences Section III: Materia Medica Section IV: Repertory Section V: Case Taking	Section I: Foundations of Homeopathy Section II: Practice of Homeopathy	Comprehensive Board Exam that incorporates Health Sciences and Homeopathy: ~Philosophy ~Materia Medica ~Repertory ~Cases
Oral Interview	YES	NO	NO
Continuing Education Requirements	20 hours per year in homeopathy (CHC requirement)	50 hours every two years in their area(s) of practice (though not specific to homeopathy) (State of CT Requirement)	15 every year (though not specific to homeopathy) (State of CT requirement)

*per University of Bridgeport Naturopathic School requirements